NEOTYPIFICATION OF *AMORPHA ROEMERIANA* (FABACEAE: AMORPHEAE)

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ABSTRACT

A neotype (*W.R. Carr et al 27810*, TEX) is designated for *Amorpha roemeriana* Scheele (Fabaceae: Amorpheae) to preserve the current application of the name for a relatively rare species of the Edwards Plateau of central Texas and Coahuila, Mexico.

RESUMEN

Se designa un neotipo (*WR Carr et al 27810*, TEX) para *Amorpha roemeriana* Scheele (Fabaceae: Amorpheae) para preservar la aplicación actual del nombre de una especies poco común en el Edwards Plateau del centro de Texas y Coahuila, México.

In the process of preparing a treatment of *Amorpha* L. for a forthcoming volume of *Flora of North America*, we attempted to locate original material of *Amorpha roemeriana* Scheele, a relatively rare species found primarily on the Edwards Plateau of Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, Medina, Travis, and Uvalde counties of central Texas (Turner et al. 2003: 306), with disjunct populations in Coahuila, Mexico, that scarcely differ from the Texas populations. The type was collected by Carl Ferdinand von Roemer (1818–1891) "In margine rivulorum prope, Austin" during his 1845–1846 visit to Texas where he concentrated on geology (Simonds 1902). Upon his return to Europe, Roemer wrote several books and articles on his visit parleying these activities eventually into a professorship in geology at the University of Breslau. Roemer's plant specimens were given to George Heinrich Adolf Scheele (1808–1864) who accounted for several new Texas species (Scheele 1848) gathered by Roemer and, independently, by Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801–1879), including *A. roemeriana* which was reported to have been collected, in flower, in April of 1846. Roemer (1849: 429) himself stated that the plant was found "Bei Austin am Bachrande," and the "Blüthen sehr wohlriechend, violet."

Scheele's types were housed at Berlin, but as noted by Wilbur (1975), no one has reported, in the literature at least, the existence of any original material of *Amorpha roemeriana*. We attempted to locate a specimen at the Roemer-und Pelizaeus-Museum in Hildesheim, Germany, which at one time contained specimens gathered by Ferdinand Roemer (the Museum is named for his brother, Hermann Roemer [1816–1894]), only to be informed that the plant collection was sent to Berlin in the early 1900s. Nonetheless, there is no record at the Museum that there was a specimen of *Amorpha* from Austin, Texas, gathered in 1846.

The detailed description written by Scheele provides the characters necessary to distinguish *Amorpha roemeriana* from *A. fruticosa*, the most widespread species of the genus and the only one co-occurring with *A. roemeriana*. The inclusion of the swollen mucro, glandular punctuate leaflets, petiolules bearing purplish glands, and glandular vexillum in the description clearly point to *A. roemeriana* as that name is applied currently (Schneider 1907; Rydberg 1919; Palmer 1931; Wilbur 1975; Isley 1998), and contrast with the long, slender mucro, commonly eglandular leaflets, eglandular or inconspicuously glandular petiolules, and generally eglandular vexillum of *A. fruticosa*. Confirming the assumption that the name as currently applied is correct could be only accomplished by examining type specimen material. Being unable to locate any original material, we are here designating a neotype to maintain the current concept of *A. roemeriana*, which we believe to be consistent with the original description. With the able assistance of William R. Carr of the Nature Conservancy of Texas and Dr. Thomas Wendt of the University of Texas, to whom we are grateful, a suitable collection was obtained.

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Amorpha roemeriana Scheele, Linnaea 21:461. 1848. TYPE: UNITED STATES. TEXAS. Hays Co.: Ashe juniper woodland on extremely shallow stony clay loam on top of N- to NW-facing bluff of Fredericksburg Limestone ca. 40–50 ft above the S bank of Blanco River, NW corner of Falls Ranch, ca. 4.5 air mi W of the junction of State Route 150 and Ranch Road 2770 near Mountain City, ca. 2.8 air mi SSE of the junction of State Route 150 and Ranch Road 3237 at Hays City, at N30°00'37.5", W097°58'01.1", Mountain City Quadrangle, elev. 740–750 ft, 15 May 2009, *W.R. Carr, B. Johnson & T. Wendt 27810* (NEOTYPE, designated here: TEX; ISONEOTYPES: ARIZ, BH, BRY, CAS, HUH, K, MEXU, MICH, MO, NCU, NY, OKLA, RSA, US).

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